AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A gelled culture medium for detecting methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), comprising:

nutrients for the growth of said *Staphylococcus aureus*;

an antibiotic added to the medium before the medium gels, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin, cefmetazole, or moxalactam; and

a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA.

18. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

19. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 18, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.

20. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 19, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

21. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 18, further comprising 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

22. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 21, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

23. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, further comprising at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

24. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 23, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

25. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 23, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

26. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the medium comprises agar.

27. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, comprising sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

28. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin.

29. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole.

30. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is moxalactam.

31. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the concentration of antibiotic is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

32. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, further comprising vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

33. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 32, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

34. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

35. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

36. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 17, further comprising deferoxamine.

37. (New) A gelled culture medium for detecting methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), comprising:

nutrients for the growth of said *Staphylococcus aureus*;

an antibiotic added to the medium before the medium gels, wherein the antibiotic is flomoxef; and

a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA.

38. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

39. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.

40. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 39, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

41. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 38, further comprising 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

42. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 41, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

43. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, further comprising at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

44. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 43, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

45. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

46. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, wherein the medium comprises agar.

47. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, comprising sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

48. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, wherein the concentration of flumoxef is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

49. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, further comprising vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

50. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 49, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

51. (New) The gelled culture medium of claim 37, further comprising deferoxamine.

52. (New) A method of detecting the presence or absence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in a sample from a patient, comprising:

(a) inoculating a medium comprising (i) nutrients for the growth of said MRSA; (ii) an antibiotic, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin, cefmetazole, or moxalactam; and (iii) a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA, with said sample;

(b) incubating said medium under conditions that allow growth of said MRSA;

(c) detecting, on said medium, the presence or absence of said MRSA by virtue of the presence or absence of colored colonies.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated directly from a patient.

54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated after an enriching phase.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated by streaking onto the medium.

56. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

59. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

61. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

64. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium comprises agar.

65. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium comprises sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

66. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin.

67. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole.

68. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is moxalactam.

69. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the concentration of antibiotic is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

70. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

72. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

73. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

74. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises deferoxamine.

75. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 25°C and 42°C.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 30°C and 38°C.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the incubation is at a temperature of 37°C.

78. (New) A method of detecting the presence or absence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in a sample from a patient, comprising:

(a) inoculating a medium comprising (i) nutrients for the growth of said MRSA; (ii) an antibiotic, wherein the antibiotic is flomoxef; and (iii) a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA, with said sample;

(b) incubating said medium under conditions that allow growth of said MRSA;

(c) detecting, on said medium, the presence or absence of said MRSA by virtue of the presence or absence of colored colonies.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated directly from a patient.

80. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated after an enriching phase.

81. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated by streaking onto the medium.

82. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

83. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

85. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

87. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

90. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium comprises agar.

91. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium comprises sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

92. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the concentration of flumoxef is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

93. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

95. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises deferoxamine.

96. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 25°C and 42°C.

97. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 30°C and 38°C.

98. (New) The method of claim 97, wherein the incubation is at a temperature of 37°C.